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SIPDIS

NOFORN

DS/IP/SA AND DS/DSS/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2010

TAGS: [PTER](#) [KISL](#) [PGOV](#) [BG](#) [BG](#)

SUBJECT: JMB DEPUTY COMMANDER CAUGHT

Classified By: A/DCM D.C. McCullough, reasons para 1.4 b, d.

[11](#). (S/NF) Summary. Rapid Action Battalion personnel have caught reputed JMB deputy commander Ataur Rahman Sunny. The breakthrough came in Dhaka the evening of December 13 but has reportedly been kept quiet to further the JMB dragnet. A major seizure of arms and explosives in Dhaka the morning of December 14 apparently stemmed from information provided by Rahman. The BDG is expected to announce Rahman's arrest, its first major victory in the anti-JMB campaign, later today. End Summary.

[12](#). (C) On December 14, vacationing PolFSN called in to report that reputed Jamaatul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) deputy commander Ataur Rahman Sunny, who is also the brother of JMB head Abdur Rahman, had been arrested the previous night, and that the BDG would announce the arrest later this afternoon. The arrest was being kept secret, the source stated, to further the JMB investigation, and that information provided by Rahman led to the seizure this morning of a large quantity of arms and explosives in the Manda part of Dhaka seven kilometers from the chancery. (Note: We believe the source is a Home Ministry press officer.)

[13](#). (S/NF) SIMO has confirmed Ataur Rahman's arrest with liaison.

[14](#). (C) Police contacts confirmed press reports that, early December 14, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) personnel, "acting on a tip," seized a large quantity of arms and explosives at a house in Manda. The haul reportedly included 24 small improvised explosive devices, 20 pistols, nearly 90 kilograms of explosives and bomb-making materials, and 50 detonators. Three "low-level" JMB operatives were arrested at the house. According to police, all the arms and explosives are of Bangladeshi origin except for the detonators and the gelatin explosives. (Note: In the past, BDG officials have claimed that detonators and explosives used by JMB came from India. The Indian High Commission today told us that, after weeks of prodding, the BDG recently turned over for tracing one detonator with no markings.)

[15](#). (C) Comment: Rahman's arrest is the BDG's first major victory in its crackdown on the JMB. The opposition Awami League will likely allege that the BDG sat on Rahman for 24 hours to rehearse his story to prevent embarrassment to JMB supporters in the BNP and Jamaat Islami. In that context, Rahman's apparent tip leading to the arms and explosives seizure today is double good news for the BDG in that it seems to validate the BDG's decision to delay an arrest announcement. Local newspapers the past week have been filled with reports of JMB arrests and seized arms caches, but only time will tell if Rahman's arrest and other actions have significantly degraded JMB capabilities.

CHAMMAS